Claims

1. A controlled release or delayed release formulation containing a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI).

2. A formulation according to claim 1 wherein the SSRI is paroxetine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. A formulation according to claim 1 or 2, which comprises enteric coated tablets or caplets, wax or polymer coated tablets or caplets or time-release matrices, or combinations thereof.

4. A formulation according to any preceding claim, which is a polymeric controlled release composition comprising a reaction complex formed by the interaction of (1) a calcium polycarbophil component which is a water-swellable, but water insoluble, fibrous cross-linked carboxy-functional polymer, said polymer containing (a) a plurality of repeating units of which at least about 80% contain at least one carboxyl functionality, and (b) about 0.05 to about 1.5% cross-linking agent substantially free from polyalkenyl polyether, said percentages being based upon the weights of unpolymerised repeating unit and cross-linking agent, respectively, with (2) water, in the presence of an active agent selected from the group consisting of SSRIs.

5. A formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 3, which is a system for the controlled release of an active substance which is an SSRI, comprising (a) a deposit-core comprising an effective amount of the active substance and having defined geometric form and (b) a support-platform applied to said deposit-core, wherein said deposit-core contains at least the active substance, and at least one member selected from the group consisting of (1) a polymeric material which swells on contact with water or aqueous liquids and a gellable polymeric material wherein the ratio of the said swellable polymeric material to said gellable polymeric material is in the range 1:9 to 9:1, and (2) a single polymeric material having both swelling and gelling properties, and wherein the support-platform is an elastic support, applied to said deposit-core so that it partially covers the surface of the deposit-core and follows changes due to hydration of the deposit-core and is slowly soluble and/or slowly gellable in aqueous fluids.

6. A method of treating and/or preventing the disorders by administering an effective and/or a prophylactic amount of a controlled release or delayed release formulation according to any preceding claim, to a sufferer in need thereof.

7. Use of a controlled release or delayed release formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 5 in the manufacture of a medicament, for treating and/or preventing the disorders.

8. A process for the preparation of a formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 5, which comprises combining the constituents thereof in the required proportions.